

From: philip bernstein
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 10:52am
Subject: .

I find it hard not to be cynical here. Microsoft has a track record of circumventing many of the laws now in place against it. How this settlement will curtail this is beyond me.

They have taken the law into there own hands and used it to there own advantage and have consistently hurt consumers, by limiting choice.

I do not use microsoft products (I find them to be buggy and inferior to most programs out in the market), and because I choose not to use there product, I have to find ways to get around there lock on the software and pc market.

I have been to web sites that refuse my connection due to the fact the I am not running microsoft software. Is this good for me the consumer? I like choice and microsoft is trying to eliminate my choice of software to use.

I find the decision of the government in this instance to be rather naive in the fact that they think they can control what microsoft has become. In fact, I think the government has let down the U.S. consumer. In a country where we have choices for just about anything, not to have a choice of which software to use (and actually be able to access any given web site or resource, as proven recently by microsoft blocking access to there web sites against Opera and netscape web browsers), is in my opinion a criminal act (one of which they would surely protest if sites blocked them).

Since they have been proven guilty of anti-trust behavior, and also for not living up to the last remedies imposed on them, I think it's rather sad that the government would rather give them a slap on the hand rather than take some positive action against them and put choice back into consumers hands. After all, we should be a country of choice and not a country of microsofts choices.

--

Philip Bernstein
ppberns@hvc.rr.com